

PCT

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

(PCT Article 18 and Rules 43 and 44)

Applicant's or agent's file reference S99P1237WO00	FOR FURTHER ACTION see Notification of Transmittal of International Search Report (Form PCT/ISA/220) as well as, where applicable, item 5 below.	
International application No. PCT/JP99/05814	International filing date (day/month/year) October 21, 1999	(Earliest) Priority Date (day/month/year) October 23, 1998
Applicant SONY CORPORATION		

This international search report has been prepared by this International Searching Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 18. A copy is being transmitted to the International Bureau.

This international search report consists of a total of 4 sheets.

☐ It is also accompanied by a copy of each prior art document cited in this report.

1. ☐ Certain claims were found unsearchable (See Box I).
2. ☐ Unity of invention is lacking (See Box II).
3. ☐ The international application contains disclosure of a nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence listing and the international search was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing
 - ☐ filed with the international application.
 - ☐ furnished by the applicant separately from the international application,
 - ☐ but not accompanied by a statement to the effect that it did not include matter going beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed.
 - ☐ transcribed by this Authority.
4. With regard to the title, ☒ the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.
☐ the text has been established by this Authority to read as follows:
5. With regard to the abstract,
 - ☐ the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.
 - ☒ the text has been established, according to Rule 38.2(b), by this Authority as it appears in Box III. The applicant may, within one month from the date of mailing of this international search report, submit comments to this Authority.
6. The figure of the drawings to be published with the abstract is:
 Figure No. 2
 - ☒ as suggested by the applicant.
 - ☐ because the applicant failed to suggest a figure.
 - ☐ because this figure better characterizes the invention.

☐ None of the figures.

Box III TEXT OF THE ABSTRACT (Continuation of Item 5 of the first sheet)

A reproducing apparatus comprising a memory(26) in which data and at least management data including flags indicating whether or not the data can be reproduced are stored, a reproducing unit(25) for reproducing the data which is read out of the memory(26), an operation unit(22) having an operator for setting a flag indicating whether or not the data stored in the memory(26) can be reproduced, and a control unit(21) for adding a flag into management data according to the input from the operator and for controlling the read of data from the memory(26) according to the management data and the reproduction by the reproducing unit(25), wherein the control unit(21) allows the reproducing unit(25) to reproduce only data read out of the memory(26) and having no flag.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/JP99/05814

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

Int.Cl⁷ G10L 19/00 // G10L 101:06

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

Int.Cl⁷ G10L 19/00-19/04, 101:00-101:12

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Japanese Utility Model Publication Gazette	1972-1996
Japanese Utility Model Laid Open Gazette	1971-2000
Registered Utility Model Specification	1984-2000
Japanese Utility Model Registration Gazette	1996-2000

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	JP, 63-305398, A (Toshiba Corporation), 13 December, 1988 (13.12.88) & EP, 294201, A2 & KR, 9105487, B1 & CA, 1337532, A1	1-19
A	JP, 63-282798, A (Sanyo Electric Co., Ltd.), 18 November, 1988 (18.11.88) (Family: none)	1-19
A	JP, 6-168000, A (Matsushita Electric Ind. Co., Ltd.), 14 June, 1994 (14.06.94) (Family: none)	1-19
A	JP, 9-128000, A (Sanyo Electric Co., Ltd.), 16 May, 1997 (16.05.97) (Family: none)	1-19

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.
 ☐ See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:	"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
"E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date	"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)	"&" document member of the same patent family
"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means	
"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	

Date of the actual completion of the international search
18 January, 2000 (18.01.00)Date of mailing of the international search report
01 February, 2000 (01.02.00)Name and mailing address of the ISA/
Japanese Patent OfficeAuthorized officer 5C/8946
Examiner, Patent Office

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/JP99/05814

C (Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	JP, 9-259595, A (Olympus Optical Company Limited), 03 October, 1997 (03.10.97) (Family: none)	1-19
A	JP, 7-17000, U (Sanyo Electric Co., Ltd.), 20 March, 1995 (20.03.95) (Family: none)	1-19